

OFFICE OF SEN. STROM THURMOND
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Washington, D. C.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-SC) today told the Senate that the farm bill before it is the "best general farm bill that can be passed at this session of Congress" and that legislation is urgently needed "to insure that the position of the farmer -- already poor -- will not rapidly get worse."

Thurmond reminded the Senate that attempts to pass general farm bills at this session have failed. "It has been a matter of serious concern to me," he said, "that Congress has reached this advanced point in the session without the enactment of a general farm bill."

The South Carolina Democrat pointed out that in the five-year period, 1952-57, farm prices declined 16 per cent, while realized net farm income declined 19 per cent. In 1957, he said, the returns to all farm workers for their labor and management reached a low of 69 cents an hour, while the average wage of industrial workers reached a high of \$2.07 per hour.

"I am glad that American industrial workers are sharing as they are in the fruits of production," Thurmond said. "The farmer, like the industrial worker, has been increasing his productivity, but, unlike the industrial worker, the farmer's increased productivity has not been rewarded."

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